Enactment of domestic legislation on terrorism

4579. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not enacted domestic legislation on terrorism under UN Security Council Resolution 1373;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by when this legislation is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) On September 28, 2001, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1373 making it mandatory for all States to take a number of steps to combat terrorism. The resolution also requires all States to report on the masures taken by them to effectively implement the resolution. As a victim of terrorism for over two decades, India had in place aspects of legislation applicable to acts of terrorism, which are criminal acts and some measures to regulate financial transactions so as to prevent their misuse. The recently enacted Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) is a comprehensive piece of legislation which includes a range of measures and provisions to combat the various dimensions of terrorism. In compliance with Security Council resolution 1373, India has also submitted a National Report outlining these and other domestic action taken by us.

Torturing of Indian High Commission's employee in Islamabad

4580. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian High Commission employees in Islamabad are feeling unsafe and recently one of the employees was physically torture by police for nearly nine hours;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the officials of Indian High Commission in Islamabad are deliberately alleged to be indulged in spying activities on flimsy ground; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the officials of the Indian High Commission working in Islamabad and to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) On 19th April, 2002 a staff member of Indian High Commission was forcibly abducted and released some 9 hours later badly beaten and bruised. In such cases, Pakistan routinely alleges, without any basis whatsoever, the person concerned was found to be indulging in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status.

(d) Government of India conveys its strong protest to Government of Pakistan at all cases of torture/harassment of officials of Indian, High Commission in Islamabad reminding them of their obligations under the Viena Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the bilateral "Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic Consular Personnel in India & Pakistan". Government remains committed to taking all measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of its personnel in Missions abroad.

Closing down of Gurdwara in Kuwait

4581. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kuwaiti Government has closed down the only Gurdwara in that country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether this matter has been discussed with the Kuwaiti Goverment; and .

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.